(c) whether for 1993-94 two locations for exploration will remain in West Bengal; and

(d) whether it is proposed that the two locations in 1993-94 would be served by one Rig only ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) At present three rigs are operating in West Bengal at Ichapur-1, Golf Green and Baharampur-I. Drilling depth at Ichapur-I is 5497 m. and at Golf Green 5826 m. At Baharampur-I, work preparatory to drilling is in progress.

(c) and (d) In 1993-94, after completing the present well at Baharampur location the rig will move to location Ichapur-2 for drilling.

Rig lying idle in West Bengal

1880. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a rig has been lying idle for nearly two years in one location named Golf Green No. 1 in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the target fixed in the concerned location has been achieved;

(d) if so, whether evaluation of the target is done by production testing;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) in case the target could not be evaluated yet whether there is any proposal for making further attempts;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (h) Pre-production testing activity has been initiated with the lowering of production casing, and the testing of first of five objects is being taken up.

Hydrocarbon Projects in West Bengal

1881. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the geologically predicted Hydrocarbon projects in West Bengal are still below 4000 Metres;

(b) furnish a list of the formations in West Bengal alongwith perspective depths and full geological predictions of hydrocarbon availability; and

(c) whether the rate of progress of the drilling at different depths vary considerably and is extremely slow at depth beyond 400 Metres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Geologically predictable prospectivity is a function of adequacy of source-reservoir and cap rock facies. These factors vary within a basin. Therefore, any presumption that hydrocarbon prospectivity is restricted to depths below 4000 m. is not valid unless otherwise proved by drilling.

(b) The formations that have been drilled through in West Bengal in different wells are Basement, Gondwana, Rajmahal traps, Bolpur/Ghatal, Jalangi, Sylhet limestone, Kopili, Burdwan/Memari, Pandua/Matla, Debagram/Ranaghat and Bengal Alluvium. All the above stratigraphic levels have been tested by drilling 42 wells both onland and offshore. The results have been discouraging and the wells abandoned dry. One well, Ichapur-1 has given non-commercial hydrocarbon indication (gas and condensate) from Burdwan/Memari formation of Oligocene age at a depth of 4346-4349 m.

(c) The rate of drilling varies due to several reasons and normally decreases with depth.

Oil Found in Ichapur in West Bengal

1882. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Ichapur No. 1 location in West Bengal where oil has been found